US Request for posting of Defence Officials

1788. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had received a suggestion from the United States of America to post Indian defence officers at two of its global military commands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had agreed to the proposal of US in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) There was an informal suggestion from the United States of America (USA) to post Indian military officers at its Central Command and Pacific Command Headquarters in order to promote closer military relations and cooperation. The Government has not received such a proposal formally or responded to it. However, a stronger interaction between the Office of our Defence Attaches in our Embassy in Washington with US Military Commands and Service Headquarters in general, was agreed to during the Raksha Mantri's recent visit to the United States.

Growing contracts between Armed Forces in India and China

1789. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China are increasing contracts between armed forces of two countries;

(b) if so, whether Chinese General's visit has proved successful in clearing some of the doubts that has been there for growth and improvement of border and other talks;

(c) to what extent both armed forces have agreed to jointly enter at various levels;

(d) whether 50 member team of Indian Army officials has also visited small Chinese town to attend China's National Day; and

(e) if so, to what extent both armed forces are together to help each other in permitting defence ties and also defence needs to both countries?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) The initiatives taken by India for strengthening defence ties with China include stepping up exchanges of military delegations, high level visits, training exchanges and invitation to participate as observers in each other's military exercises. The efforts are focused on building of trust and confidence between the two countries particularly in the military sphere, improving military to military relations and ensuring peace and tranquility on the borders.

The visit of General Liang Guanglie, Chinese Chief of General Staff to India in May, 2005 provided an opportunity to exchange views, increase familiarity with the Chinese People's Liberation Army leadership, and step up activities to promote confidence building and relations between the two Armed Forces.

Some of the measures agreed upon to promote defence cooperation between India and China include more frequent reciprocal high-level visits, an annual programme of exchange of professional and training delegations, increased points and frequency of border meetings, participation in each other's national days, festive occasions and sporting events between units, at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and participation as observers in each other's military exercise amongst others.

Recent high-level visits have included the visits of Chief of Army Staff and Vice Chief of Naval Staff from India and the Chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to India. Visits of Indian tri-services delegations to China and Chinese delegations to India to each other's defence establishments and training institutions have recently been undertaken to promote mutual trust and confidence between the armed forces of the two countries.

Weapons from Israel

1790. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: